

## What is the Extended Post Care Support Oversight Group

CREATE is helping the Queensland Government set up the very first Extended Post Care Support (EPCS) Oversight Group (EPCS Oversight Group) in Queensland so young people with lived experience can have input into the evaluation process of EPCS. This will result in improved experiences for young people leaving care and accessing EPCS.

## CREATE's role in the EPCS Group

CREATE Foundation is the national peak body representing the voices of children and young people with a care experience. We engage with children and young people across a range of programs and services to understand the issues of importance to them and translate these insights into priorities for reforming or improving child protection and care systems.

The new EPCS Oversight Group is a way to elevate the voice and expertise of young people with lived experience to drive the evaluation of EPCS for young people leaving the care system in Queensland. The group will do this by identifying gaps and opportunities and providing advice to the evaluators and sector on changes that will improve things for young people leaving care.

This is about voicing your ideas to drive change to improve the lives and support available to all young people leaving care in Queensland. CREATE will support you all the way through by helping you prepare for meetings, supporting you during meetings, and catching up after meetings to reflect on how it went for you.

## Who selects the EPCS Group members?

A group of young people and adults involved in the care system in Queensland will look at applications and review them against the selection criteria outlined. The panel may include people from:

- CREATE Foundation, including Young Consultants
- Department Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services
- Office of the Public Guardian
- Queensland Child and Family Commission
- Queensland First Children Families Board
- Disability network
- A service provider.

The panel will take into consideration all of the selection criteria when selecting young people to join EPCS Oversight Group. Selection criteria will include:

- Ability to participate in the group and share your opinions and brainstorm with others in a team.
- Know about and/or receive support under the EPCS program and have ideas of what needs to change or how things can improve.
- Be able to share a 'systems' level advocacy (ie. Ideas and gaps about EPCS that affect everyone).
- Ability to attend 4 meetings per year, responsiveness to calls and emails and being able to prepare for meetings.

The panel will also think about how to make sure lots of different voices and experiences are reflected in the group. To do this, the panel will consider:

- Gender
- Where you live across Queensland
- Cultural background
- First Nations People
- LGBTIQ+ young people
- People who are living with a disability.

## How many positions are there?

Up to 10 positions are available for young people to join the Extended Post Care Support Oversight Group.

## Will I get paid for my time?

As a group member, you'll be invited to attend up to 4 meetings per year, each meeting running for approximately 2 hours. CREATE will reimburse you for your time at the [SCHADS Award](#) Level 3.1 base rate as a casual, with a minimum of 3 hours for each meeting. This means CREATE will ensure you are paid for the 2 hours to attend the meeting and will also cover an hour for prep time and debriefing per meeting.

## What will I do if I get selected as a Group member?

- Share opinions, ideas and perspectives about what it's like to transition from care or be transitioning from care and what supports would make it better.
- Come up with ideas and solutions about how EPCS can be improved.
- Provide the Evaluators with advice about the things you see as priorities for young people leaving care.
- Provide the evaluators with advice about the best way to talk to young people as part of the evaluation. This can include advice about recruitment, the questions they should be asking other young people or service providers about how EPCS is currently being delivered.

## Other benefits for you

A certificate of participation will be provided to members to acknowledge your involvement in the Extended Post Care Support Oversight Group. As an EPCS Oversight Group member, CREATE may also be able to provide you with a reference to support you to apply for jobs and study.

## What happens to my information?

CREATE will summarise what you and other young people say in Group minutes. No names or personal information will be used in the minutes. The minutes will show the age of members of the Group. CREATE values what children and young people say and we try to include as many of the young people's actual words as possible. If something you say is used as a direct quote, your name will not be used but your age might be (e.g., EPCS Oversight Group member, 19 years) – unless we think this might identify you. For more information on CREATE's Privacy Policy, go to <http://create.org.au/privacy-policy/>

## How it all works

### Recruitment and induction (joining EPCS Oversight Group and getting started)

Following the selection process, new EPCS Oversight Group members will be invited to attend an induction session delivered by CREATE. Information packs will be provided by CREATE.

### How we keep track of what happens at EPCS Oversight Group

CREATE will help set up meetings, support members to plan for meetings, hold workshops with members to brainstorm ideas about what to talk about at meetings, and help members to understand how the evaluation of EPCS will work. CREATE will also come along and take notes at meetings to keep a record for everyone about what happens during meetings. CREATE will work with members on projects that may happen between meetings.

### Meetings

The Group meets up to four times a year, for around 2 hours. This may be a mix of in-person and online meetings.

### Who will run the meetings?

The Evaluators and one of the young members will both lead the meetings, as a team. This is called 'co-chairing'. The young person co-chair role may be shared between members or one person might be the co-chair for a while. In co-chairing, the Evaluators and young person co-chair will guide the discussion at meetings, make sure everyone gets to have a say, and make sure there's time to cover everything that members want to talk about.

### Reading

Members will get to have a say about what they want to talk about at each meeting. These things will be written into an 'agenda'. The agenda will be sent to members at least 1 week ahead of each meeting. It will include talking about any important issues relating to the residential care system, working together on important projects, and hearing updates from other groups and organisations that might be relevant to the evaluation.

### Team Charter

A Team Charter will be developed in the first meeting. This is where all the members will talk about how to keep the conversation safe for everyone. All members will sign the Team Charter before proceeding with further discussions. The Team Charter will accompany the Terms of Reference to be emailed out before each meeting along with other important papers (agenda and minutes).

### Contact

CREATE will share relevant documents and updates with the Group outside of meetings by email. This may include asking for members to input into important projects the Group is doing between meetings. If you have any questions, feedback or support needs you'd like to discuss, please contact CREATE at [kathryn.burke@create.org.au](mailto:kathryn.burke@create.org.au).